

**COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Public Meeting**

**June 27, 2000**

A meeting of the Advisory Council for the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was held from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Maxwell Inn, 81 Oak Street, Maxwell, California. Present: Charlette Lauppe, Helen Fink, Nancy Parriott, Kevin Wheeler, Carol Geyer, Christy Scofield, Kay Sharpe, Priscilla Buchanan, Carole Ricci, Shirley Mongini, Sandy Huff, Bonnie Wilson, Lorna Smallwood, Racquel Ulloa, Caroline Kappli, Susan Rawlins, Esperanza Ramirez, Deneen Torres, Dolores Gomez, Rosa Mendoza, Anne Doyle.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1.       Introductions

Colusa County Children and Families Commission chair, Christy Scofield started the meeting with group introductions and then turned facilitation over to Sarah Longaker, Consulting Manager, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

2.       Review of information prepared on the topic of Child Development

The group reviewed the materials distributed for the purpose of developing specific strategies for the two previously identified goals and their related objectives.

Goal 2.1   Children live in safe, nurturing environments. "Living environments" include all places where children spend a significant amount of time, such as homes and child care settings.

Objective 2.1.1   Increase the knowledge and skill of caretakers on nurturing and safety.  
"Caretakers" includes the full spectrum of parents, grandparents, guardians, child care providers, neighbors, and others that may be caring for children.

Goal 2.2   Children live in environments that meet their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development needs.

Objective 2.2.1   Increase the knowledge and skill of caretakers on cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development needs. This should include understanding of child development at different ages, and also honor the role of the parent as the primary caregiver and role model.

Objective 2.2.2   Increase access to quality preschools for all children.

The materials included Goals and Objectives, Community Needs and Interests, Existing Resources, Potential Strategies to Consider, and Funding Options. Susan Rawlins offered to provide additional data specific to the Colusa County Library section of the Community Resource List.

3.       Identify and prioritize the strategies that should be pursued in Colusa County in order to achieve the objectives in the area of Improved Child Development.

The group brainstormed a variety of potential strategies and identified which objective(s) each addressed. After listing the strategies the group prioritized them into their "A" list. People identified their top four action priorities. The results are shown in the following table.

Votes	Obj.	Strategy
15	2.2.2	Blend state preschool and Head Start programs in each rural community within the county to eliminate income qualification barriers.
14	2.2.1 2.2.2	Use mobile classroom to go into the local communities; evolve use to include early screening and assessment, especially for hearing and speech impairments.
10	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Offer parenting classes in all communities in both Spanish and English.
10	2.2.2	Set up satellite sites with universal access for families (not income eligibility restricted) providing portability of services and part-time care.
9	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Engage entire family, especially siblings, in literacy efforts and education of young children.
8	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Distribute "gift pack" of quality books for all kindergarten children in Colusa County to include materials for parents to assist with literacy and self-identification of needs.
8	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Provide specialized trainings to caregivers.
7	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Provide child care so parents can attend classes.
7	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Develop media campaign to reach all adults (literate & illiterate) which leads to self-identification of needs and engages in education process.
4	2.2.2	Provide technical assistance and resources to help parents set up cooperative preschools, day care, and/or other supports within their local communities.
3	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Open school sites for evening programs for children with simultaneous parenting education classes.
3	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Expand the existing infant and parent teen school-base program for countywide access at the local level. Use curriculum in existing preschools to develop support groups.
3	2.2.1	Develop and distribute child literacy kits, including video.
2	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Expand parenting education to include planning (e.g. finances)
2	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Expand parenting education curriculum to include mentor and neighborhood involvement and increase support for families.
1	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Implement a home visitation and/or outreach component for parenting education.
1	2.2.1	Involve school districts and elementary school teachers to teach parents of pre-kindergarten children on literacy development. Coordinate with library and tie into adult literacy programs.
0	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Develop methods to communicate various opportunities to parents in a way that engages them (vs. "talking down" to them).
0	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Develop "communi-care" centers with year round access (e.g. the Woodland model) to act as a hub where family friendly services are offered.
0	2.1.1. 2.2.1	Develop campaign that engages all individuals in community in the full spectrum of nurturing, safety, cognitive, social, and emotional development aspects.
0	2.1.1	Coordinate Colusa County's OCAP (child abuse prevention) grants and related activities.
0	2.2.2	Identify and acquire funding for pilot testing and training on successful service delivery options using best practice models.
0	2.2.2	Qualify Colusa County for state preschool.

1. For high priority strategies, identify potential partnerships and funding options to pursue.

The group decided to merge the parenting education strategies into one larger strategy. After combining the total votes for parenting strategies into one, it was added to the list with 15 votes. All strategies with 7 or more votes then made the "A" list and the group began identifying partners for each. The strategies and initial list of potential partners are captured in the table below; the list is considered preliminary and will need to be refined further.

Votes	Obj.	Strategy	Partners
15	2.1.1 2.2.1	Expand parenting education curriculum, target populations and teaching methods. Specifically, include mentors and neighborhoods to increase family supports; involve school districts and elementary school teachers for pre-kindergarten literacy development; offer programs in Spanish and English; tie into County Library adult literacy programs; and, implement home visitation/outreach components.	Behavioral Health Services, Parent Education Network, Faith Community, Casa de Esperanza-Rape Crisis, Yuba College, County Office of Education.
15	2.2.2	Qualify Colusa County for state preschool, then blend state preschool and Head Start programs in each rural community within the county to eliminate income qualification barriers.	Local Schools, County Office of Education, Yuba College, Rural Communities Health Coalition
14	2.2.1 2.2.2	Use mobile classroom to go into the local communities; evolve use to include early screening and assessment, especially for hearing and speech impairments.	Library, Schools, Hospital, County Office of Education, Great Valley Center (infrastructure)
10	2.2.2	Set up satellite sites with universal access for families (not income eligibility restricted) providing portability of services and part-time care.	Head Start, County Office of Education, Day Care Centers, Local Schools
9	2.1.1 2.2.1	Engage entire family, especially siblings, in literacy efforts and education of young children.	Library, Schools, Day Care Providers
8	2.1.1 2.2.1	Distribute "gift pack" of quality books for all kindergarten children in Colusa County to include materials for parents to assist with literacy and self-identification of needs.	Hospital, Day Care Providers
8	2.1.1 2.2.1	Provide specialized trainings to caregivers.	Yuba College, Schools, County Office of Education, Child Services, Health Department, Behavioral Health Services, Library
7	2.1.1 2.2.1	Provide child care so parents can attend classes.	County Office of Education, Schools, Local Child Care Planning Council, Child Services, Existing Providers
7	2.1.1 2.2.1	Develop media campaign to reach all adults (literate & illiterate) which leads to self-identification of needs and engages them in education process.	Local electronic and print media, AT&T Cable, PBS, State Commission, Association of County Executives (Prop 10)

The group commented that strategies not making onto the priority list would be kept in mind for other objectives or future planning.

The next Advisory Council meeting is July 11 and focuses on setting strategies for Improved Family Functioning: Strong Families. Mike Smith will prepare an agenda for the meeting and get notices out to everyone.

The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Longaker, consultant to the Commission.